

Madam Speaker,

I rise today to share my thoughts on the Department of Housing and Urban Development Fiscal Year 2008 budget request. In my opinion, it is disgraceful. This budget request cuts vital housing assistance programs leaving low-income families, elderly, and disabled out in the cold.

The President's request cuts the Community Development Block Grant program by 20 percent, the Public Housing program by 7 percent, HUD's disabled housing program by 47 percent, and HUD's elderly housing program by 22 percent. The budget eliminates entirely the HOPE 6 housing program, among others. While some might argue that the Section 8 voucher program will get more money, it is not even enough to cover inflation.

At the same time, the President also cuts the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program by 56 percent. So with both cuts to housing and heating assistance programs, the President would literally leave the most vulnerable out in the cold.

I hope that this Congress will act with more thought by appropriating more funding for these vital programs.

Thank you, I yield back my time.

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